Articles

TO BE INQVIRED OF BY

the Churchwardens and ſworne-men of

the Dioces and Iuriſdiction of Peterborough,

in the viſitation of the Reuerend father in God, *Thomas* by Gods *permiſſion L. Biſhop of Peterborough, in the yeare of our Lord* God 1602. and in the xliiij. yeare of the Raigne of *our Soueraigne Ladie Elizabeth by the grace of* God of England, France, and Ireland *Queene, Defender of the faith,* &c.

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The tenour of the oth to be miniſtred to all and euery of the Churchwardens and ſworne-men in the ſaid viſitation.

YE ſhall ſweare by almightie God, that you ſhall diligently conſider all and euery the Articles giuen to you in charge, and make a true anſwer to the ſame in writing vnder your hands or marks, preſenting all and euery ſuch perſon and perſons dwelling within your pariſh, as haue committed any offence or fault, or made any default mentioned in any of the ſame Articles, or which are ſuſpected or defamed of any ſuch offence, or default: wherein ye ſhall not preſent any perſon or perſons of any euill will, malice, or hatred, contrarie to the truth, nor ſhall for loue, fauour, mede, dread, or any corrupt affection, ſpare to preſent any that be offenders ſuſpected or defamed in any of theſe caſes, but ſhall doe vprightly as men hauing the feare of God before their eyes, and deſirous to maintaine vertue and ſuppreſſe vice. So God helpe you, &c.

Articles to be inquired of within the Dioces of Peterborough, &c.

IN primis, whether your parſon, vicar, or Curate, be a preacher of Gods word, a maintainer and furtherer of the true & ſyncere Religion of Ieſus Chriſt, now eſtabliſhed in this Realme of England by publique authoritie: and whether he be diligent and painefull in preaching or reading of Gods word, and in catechizing the youth of your pariſh the ſabbath daies and other feſtiual daies. And whether the churchdens and ſworne-men doe aſſiſt the Miniſter as he ſhall preſcribe in that godly action.

Item, whether in the celebration of diuine ſeruice, and the adminiſtration of the ſacraments, he do in euery reſpect obſerue the forme, and manner preſcribed and ſet downe in the booke of Common prayer, wearing then ſuch decent ornaments as by her Maieſties and Iniunctions are appointed.

Item, whether his life and conuerſation be ſober, honeſt, and ſtor, and his ordinarie attire decent and comely beſeeming a minis. And if in any thing he be offenſiue, then what the ſame is where- he is ſo blemiſhed or defamed.

Item, whether you haue had ſermons in your pariſh Church nethly at the leaſt: and whether are the Homilies read when there is ſermon: and whether ſuch beneficed men as be lawfully abſent m their benefices, doe leaue their Cures to an honeſt, learned, and ly Curate, lawfully authorized: & whether you haue the Queenes eſties Iniunctions read quarterly, or no.

Item, how often is the holy Communion celebrated in your rch yearely, and whether all within your pariſh which be of ſuffi- yeares and diſcretion, doe receiue the holy Communion thriſe in eare at the leaſt, the feaſt of Eaſter beeing one of thoſe times:

whether they doe receiue it kneeling, and whether any excommunicate perſon, or any knowne or notorious offender, or any not inſtructed in the principles of Religion be admitted to the Communion, and if any ſuch be admitted, then to ſhew who they be.

6 Item, whether your Parſon or Vicar be reſident vpon his benefice, and thereon keepeth hoſpitalitie: and if he be not reſident, then what diſtribution is made by him yearely among the poore people of your ſaid pariſh.

7 Item, whether your ſaid parſon, vicar, or Curate hath denied or delaied to viſit the ſicke, to burie the dead, to vſe the perambulation in the Rogation weeke: & whether hath he married any perſons without banes thrice ſeuerall ſundaies or holidaies firſt publiſhed, or within the time by law and order forbidden, beeing not lawfully licenſed thereunto.

8 Item, whether your chauncell, your parſonage and vicarage houſes be in good and ſufficient reparations, and whether the ſaid houſes be in any ſort abuſed, by keeping any victualling, drinking, gaming therein, or by any other waies or meanes whatſoeuer.

9 Item, whether your parſon, vicar, or Curate hath bought the benefices or Eccleſiaſticall promotion, or came by them by fraud, guile, deceit, or ſimmonie; and whether he hath moe benefices or other Eccleſiaſticall liuing then he ought to haue, not hauing ſufficient licenſe or diſpenſation thereunto, and how many they be.

10 Item, whether your parſon, vicar, or Curate doth keepe an honderly Regiſter booke in parchment, wherein he truly writeth the names of all perſons baptized, married, and buried within your pariſh with the ſeuerall daies thereof. And whether he doth euery ſabbath day after morning or euening praier publikely read the names of all them who haue beene ſo baptized, married, and buried within your ſaid pariſh, the weeke next going before, as is appointed by the conſtitutions lately ſet forth and confirmed by her Maieſtie vnder her highneſſe great ſeale.

11 Item, whether hath he churched any woman after childbirth begotten in inceſt, adulterie, or fornication; or married any woman knowne to be with child ſo begotten, without publique confeſſion of their ſeuerall offences at the times of ſuch their churchings or marriages before the whole congregation then aſſembled, being vpon ſome ſabbo

both or festiuall day at morning praier time.

12 Item, whether the exercises heretofore prescribed and enioy-
to the Clergie of this Dioces for the encrease of their knowledge
he holy scriptures be accordingly obserued: and if not, in whose
ault the same hath beene, or is so omitted or neglected.

13 Item, whether are there within your parish any notorious ob-
ate Recusants, or any who negligently or seldome come to your
urch or chappell on the sabbath daies or other festiuall daies, and
o they be, and how long they haue so continued, and of what estate,
gree, or condition they are of, and what are their abilities and liuings
emed to be.

14 Item, whether any doe vsually goe out of your said Church or
ppell, or walke, talke, or sleepe, or vse any other vnseemely, vnre-
rent, or offensiue behauiour in the times of publique praier, prea-
g, celebration of the sacraments, or catechizing, and who they be.

15 Item, whether there be any which publikely or priuily doe in
eches or otherwise depraue any part of the true religion of Iesus
rist, now established within this Realme, or the Ministers or pro-
sours thereof, or any part of the booke of Common praier set forth
confirmed by publique authoritie, or any who dissuade from the
e, and who they be.

16 Item, whether any Iesuits, Seminaries, or any other knowne
sobedient persons in matters of Religion, doe resort vnto your pa-
sh, and where, and by whome are they knowne or suspected to be
rboured or releeued.

17 Item, whether haue you any schoolemaster, who teacheth ei-
er publiquely or priuately within your said parish, not allowed ther-
nto by his Ordinarie in writing vnder seale, and how long hath he
ught there: and whether doth he not vsually catechize, or instruct
is schollers in the principles of religion.

18 Item, whether haue you in your Church or chappell all bookes
nd other things necessarie and comely for the celebration of diuine
rvice and administration of the sacraments, and if not, what is wan-
ing and in whose default.

19 Item, whether is the bodie of your Church well repaired and
reuerently kept, and whether the seates and stooles, and all other fur-
niture and ornaments thereof be comely as is requisite: and if any de-

fault

fault be, then wherein and in whome the same is.

20 Item, whether your Church or chappell yard, be well fenced and orderly kept; and whether any fought, railed, skolded or vsed any game or sport in the same; and whether is there any faires or markets kept therein.

21 Item, whether any within your parish doe suffer any to eate, drinke, play, or iangle, and talke in their house or yards in the time of Common praier, or any butchers, or other artificers, that vsually keepe open their shopwindowes, or sell meate, drinke, or wares on sundaies or other commāded holidaies, in times of morning or euening praier, sermon, or catechizing, or any who labour and worke on the sabbath or other commanded festiuall daies, to the prophanation thereof, or the offence of others, and who they be.

22 Item, whether are there vsed within your said parish, any bull baytings, bearebaytings, maygames, morricedancers, or any such like prophane pastimes, or assemblies on the sabbath daies, or other commanded festiuall daies, to the hindrance of praiers, sermons, or other godly exercises, or to the griefe or offence of other godly and well disposed persons.

23 Item, whether are there in your parish, any incestuous persons, adulterers, fornicatours, vsurers, drunkards, swearers, or any who are vehemently suspected or defamed for any such crimes, and who they be.

24 Item, whether any [illegible] vsing Ecclesiasticall iurisdiction in this Dioces, their Registers or Actuaries, Apparitors or Sumnors, haue at any time winked at, and suffered any adulteries, fornications, incests, or any other faults or offences to passe and remaine vnpunished and vncorrected, for money, rewards, bribes, pleasure, friendship, or any other partiall or affectionate respect, and what be their names.

25 Item, whether such as haue beene presented for incontinencie, for adulterie, or other notorious crimes, haue done publike penance in white sheetes, and with white wandes in their hands in the parish Church of that towne where such offences haue beene committed; and if not, what be their names which haue so escaped, and by what meanes.

26 Item, whether any exercising iurisdiction Ecclesiasticall within this

Dioces, haue within two yeares last past commuted the penance
y offender within the said parish, by imposing vpon him or her a
me of money; how much the said summe was to your knowledge,
whome and for whome it was so done, and for what offence.

7 Item, whether there be within your saide parish any man that
two wiues, or any woman that hath two husbands liuing, any
ied within the degrees forbidden, or without banes three seuerall
first published, or in the time by law and order prohibited with-
icense thereunto, or any who haue had carnall knowledge toge-
before marriage, or that are vehemently suspected thereof, and
they be.

8 Item, whether any in your parish haue beene priuately married
her by any vnknowne priest or minister, or any who haue not
ared their children to be baptized publiquely in your said church
appell by your minister, according to the order, manner, and
set downe in the booke of Common praier, and who they be.

9 Item, whether any within your said parish haue harboured any
an begotten with child not beeing maried, and haue suffred them
part away not punished, or any who doe harbour or releeue any
ate excommunicated person, and what excommunicate persons
are within your saide parish, and how long they haue so remai-

10 Item, whether any within your parish doe refuse to contribute
ds the reparations of your Church or chappell, or towards the
sion of any necessarie ornaments therein, or that refuse to pay
Curate or parish clarke their wages, or other vsuall duties, and
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11 Item, whether the Churwardens of the last yeare haue faith-
and diligently discharged their offices, and made a iust account
yment of their Receipts to the Church vse: And whether your
h stocke, or any other thing giuen to any publique vse, be de-
by any, or otherwise imploied then appertaineth.

12 Item, whether haue you within your parish a decent Register-
in parchment, wherein are truly set downe the names of all
s baptized, maried, or buried at your said Church or Chappell,
the beginning of the Queenes Maiesties raigne that now is. And
er is the same booke kept in a chest vnder three lockes, as is cō-

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manded by the Conſtitutions aforeſaide.

33 Item, whether your Churwardens of the laſt and of the fore yeare, haue within one moneth next after the feaſt of Eaſter in ei of the ſame yeares, made and ſent into the office of Regiſterſhip longing to the Lord Biſhop of this Dioces, a true copie of al chriſtenings, mariages, and burialls which haue beene within your riſh, according to the tenour alſo of the ſame late Conſtitutions.

34 Item, whether your pariſh Clarke be dutifull and diligen your Miniſter, and meete and ſufficient to diſcharge his place.

35 Item, whether any within your pariſh doe occupie or in meddle with the goods or chattells of any deceaſed, whoſe will (if ſuch be) is not lawfully approoued, or dying inteſtate the adminiſt on thereof not lawfully graunted, and who they be.

36 Item, whether your Archdeacon or his Officiall, or any o exerciſing Eccleſiaſticall iuriſdiction within this Dioces in place empt or not exempted (other then the Chancellor of the ſaid Dio eſpecially ſince the xxiiij. of Auguſt 1597. haue taken vpon the graunt licenſes for marriages, admiſſions of Curates, ſchoolema pariſh clarkes, Sequeſtrations of vacant benefices, by any their fu ſed authoritie, and who they be.

37 And laſtly whether you know or haue hard by common of any other crime worthie preſentment, the reformation whereo longeth to the Eccleſiaſticall court. And if you doe, that you d well preſent them which now come to your memorie, as thoſe w ſhall hereafter come to your knowledge.

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